(5) The number of Departmental schools should be increased with a view to impart proper and improved instruction.

(6) More attention should be paid to the matter of selecting text-books. State aid is necessary in the production of useful books in literature. The number of text-books for the several classes should be reduced.

(7) Vernacular should be more largely used in official communications, etc. and men with higher Vernacular examination qualifications should be employed more largely in the Government service.

(8) Competent teachers should be appointed in the Elementary schools to teach English.

(9) The appointment of Range Inspectors might be abolished as their duties could be very well done by Assistant Inspectors.

(10) Lastly, the Member pointed out the desirability of opening a few L. G. E. Schools in some places, such as Chennankara in Neelamperur *pakuthi*, where more than 600 boys were without education for want of schools.

Mr. K. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) made some suggestions for improving Vernacular education. Firstly, he suggested that Vernacular Girls' schools also should be placed under the control of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction and said that the present system, under which it has been placed under a lady who did not know the Vernacular of the State, was not conducive to the best interests of the Vernacular. Secondly, sufficient facilities were not being afforded to raise the standard of the Vernacular. Sixteen years were necessary to finish a course of English education at School, whereas 7 years were considered enough for the Vernacular. The Member's suggestion was that steps should be taken to lengthen the Vernacular School course. Lastly, the Member represented that the minimum age for the School Final Examination candidate should be reduced from 15 to 12.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

116. Need for developing the Malayalam language.

Mr. Trivikrawar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) said that the form of correspondence in the Vernacular adopted by subordinate officers of the Government in addressing private gentlemen was not as it ought to be. The form was, in many cases, open to objection. The Member prayed that the matter be enquired into by the Government and a proper form prescribed so as to obviate the complaint.

The Member also made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) In all Government offices, correspondence should be carried on in Malayalam except in unavoidable cases.

(2) Arrangements should be made for the grant of translations of judgments of Courts. If necessary, extra fees might be charged for translation also.

(3) The Proceedings of the Town Improvement Committees should be ordered to be conducted in Malayalam. It was desirable to prepare the records of the Committee also in Malayalam.

(4) Such publications as the Census Report, the State Manual, etc., which were of general interest, should be arranged to be translated into Malayalam.

Dewan's reply—Noted.

117. Desirability of opening a Tamil Higher Grade Elementary School at Chalai in Trivandrum.

Mr. S. V. E. A. Palasubrahmanyan Pandaram (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum) said that the absence of a Tamil Higher Grade Elementary school at

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Chalai was a source of grievance to the Tamilians of the locality. There were about 30,000 people at the place who were Tamilians by birth and there were 300 merchants whose accounts and business correspondence were all in Tamil. So they keenly felt the necessity for a school in which their children could be educated through their mother tongue. There was no need for him to dilate on the subject as the necessity for imparting even Secondary education through the Vernaculars had been widely acknowledged. The school, if opened, would also be useful to the pupils of other communities who, for lack of knowledge in Tamil, did not direct their activities towards trade. He, therefore, urged the need for opening a Tamil Higher Grade Elementary School at Chalai.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

118. Desirability of granting full salary grants to village schools and the expediency of having combined lower grade elementary schools with female teachers under the supervision of the Inspectresses.

Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman (Member, Nominated) made the following two suggestions for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) Full salary grants should be given to aided village schools in view to the spread of Elementary education.

(2) There should be combined Lower Grade Elementary schools with female teachers under the supervision of the Inspectresses.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

119. Public Service Examinations in Travancore.

Mr. S. Natarajaperumal Pillai (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that public service was the most coveted profession aspired to by the educated men in Travancore. The keen competition that attended entrance to service by the overcrowding of candidates gave room for jobbery and favouritism. Public service had been the bone of contention with the various sections of the people and had caused much heart-burning and discord among them. The principle to be followed in the selection of persons should be that the best of the lot should be selected in the interests of good government. When selection was left to the discretion of individual officers, there was a certain probability of undesirable influence being brought to bear on them and the door thrown open for favouritism. By the weakness of an individual officer who might be the head of a department, that department might become a convenient ground of exploitation for unscrupulous and inefficient men. By such method of selection there was every chance of the *morale* of the service being lowered.

In the Member's opinion the best way of selecting the most capable men for the Public Service would be by holding Competetive Examinations which should be the only means of judging the comparative merits of the rival candidates. If the examinations did not allow the educationally backward classes to enter the service, the Government might reserve certain seats for the representatives of those classes. By such method of recruiting the public service, the State would have, in the course of a few years, a set of highly capable, honest, and conscientious public servants. The efficiency of the service would also be guaranteed.

The Member suggested that, for filling up vacancies in the higher ranks of the service in the general administrative branch, a system of Competitive Examinations should be organised and introduced. All appointments in the superior or higher grade, that is, those places carrying a salary of Rs. 100 or more should be made from those who had passed the Competitive Examination. The members of the subordinate service, who had the *general* qualification that might be fixed for the superior service, might also be admitted for the Competitive Examination. A Board of Examiners should be constituted for holding such Examinations.

The Member stated that recruiting to the higher offices from outside ought to be stopped. Seniority of service and ability must be the tests by which

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